

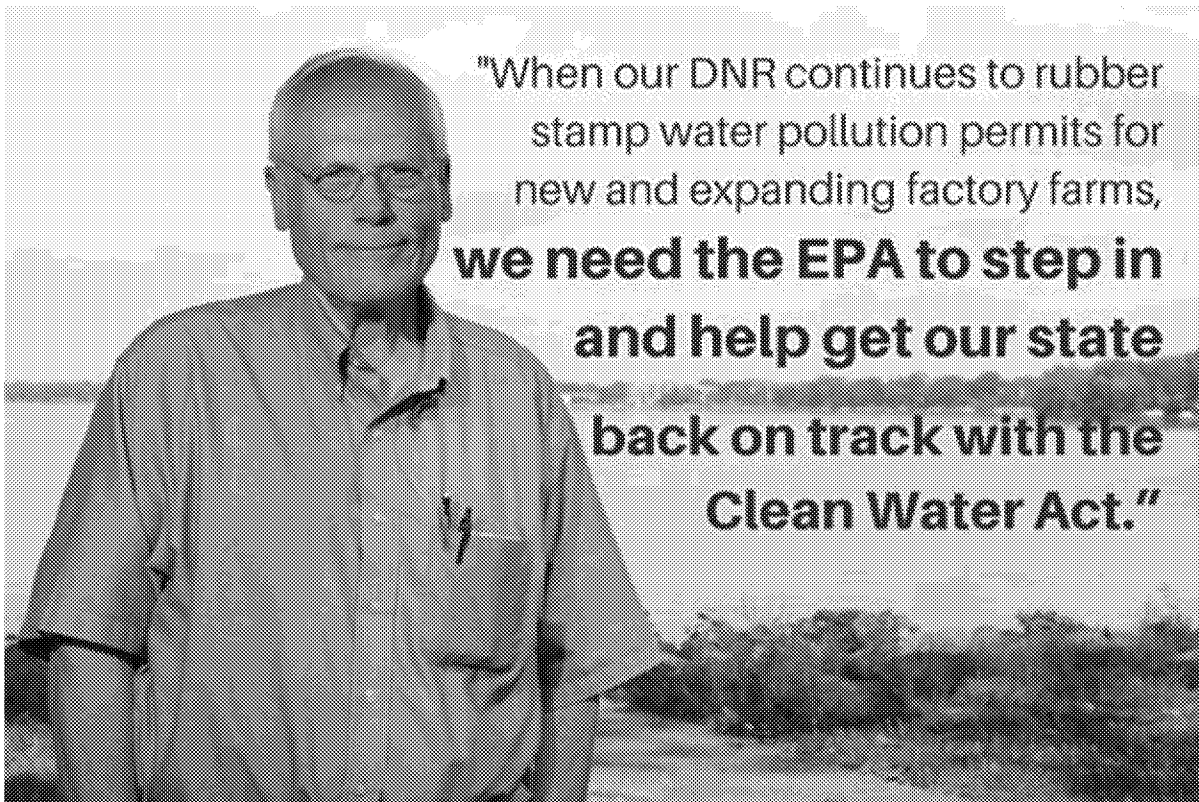
From: **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Sent: 1/18/2016 3:05:30 AM
Subject: Fwd: Meet Bill. This is why he's asking the EPA for help with Kewaunee County water.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Stacy Harbaugh, Midwest Environmental Advocates <advocate@midwestadvocates.org>
Date: Thu, Jan 14, 2016 at 3:00 PM
Subject: Meet Bill. This is why he's asking the EPA for help with Kewaunee County water.
To: **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

Bill's story, legislative updates, Big News for March 1, events and more...

Is this email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



When Bill describes growing up in Wisconsin, his stories are usually about enjoying the outdoors. After working hard on his parents' dairy farm, swimming in the Kewaunee River was a treat on summer days. Bill enjoyed his leisure time fishing with friends and family for a wide variety of game fish in the cold, clear streams and rivers in Kewaunee County.

But since the times of his youth, he and his family have seen a steady decline in their community's water.

"The health of most rivers and lakes can go up and down," he said. "But if I were a kid today, I couldn't play in the water. In fact, I will not allow my grandchildren to do so under any conditions now that I am a grandparent and understand health risks from what is in the water."

Bill has invested a lot of his own time and effort to try to improve the local water quality. He has been a part of a group of trained citizens who have been doing water testing in the Kewaunee, Ahnapee and East Twin rivers for over three years. And he worked with community members to establish Kewaunee CARES to organize local residents to work with the state Department of Natural Resources and get better responses and action from the agency.

"It's one thing for us to encourage individuals to test their well water for nitrates or bacteria," said Bill. "But when our DNR continues to rubber stamp water pollution permits for new and expanding factory farms – without any meaningful consideration for the impact of excessive manure waste on our land and in our water – we need the EPA to step in and help get our state back on track with the Clean Water Act."

[Read more about Bill and why he signed the Petition for Corrective Action to the EPA on our website.](#)

Please share his story on social media!

A BIG announcement about The Big Share!

This week, Community Shares of Wisconsin announced that The Big Share is making a comeback on March 1.

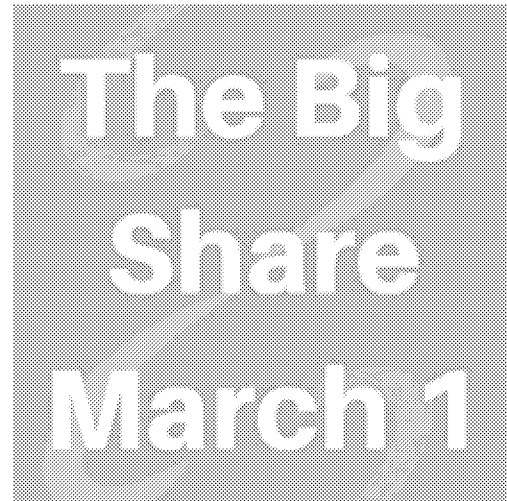
The Big Share is a 24-hour, online fundraising event in support of Community Shares' nonprofit groups. Now in its second year, The Big Share is an easy, flexible way to donate to and learn more about organizations that advance social and environmental justice in Wisconsin. From a single web page, donors can select from among all 70 nonprofits and direct their tax-deductible gifts to the causes they care most about, including Midwest Environmental Advocates.

You helped MEA set records in an amazingly successful day of fundraising last year. This year, we'll be asking even more people around the state to officially join MEA by donating and becoming an Advocate.

Bonus: we will invite all of our new and current Advocates to fun, community-building events this spring and summer!

Stay tuned for those announcements in upcoming e-newsletters.

There has never been a better time to be an Advocate. Mark your calendars, pledge early and tell your friends to be a part of The Big Share.





The Public Trust and AB 600: A giveaway of public land and access to our water

Could the state legislature be poised to make a big mistake in rolling back Public Trust protections of our shorelines?

We had Arlen Christenson, founding MEA board member, UW-Law School Professor Emeritus and former member of the state Public Intervenor's advisory board tell us why AB 600, a bill that the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters is calling a "polluters grab bag" would give away filled lake bed to developers. This legislation would give ownership of constitutionally protected, public land away as well as the waterfront access the public now enjoys.

Arlen writes that in his long experience in working to support Public Trust protections of public water and land:

"I have seen nothing even approaching AB 600 in its complete disregard for our constitutional rights in the waters of our state. Assembly Bill 600 is not only terrible public policy it is a violation of constitutional rights held by the people of Wisconsin since before statehood and enshrined in our state constitution as a condition of that statehood."

You can read Arlen's column on our website or look for it tomorrow in the printed Peninsula Pulse. It is also available on the Door County Pulse website. We wrote about the details of AB 600 on our blog and in an action alert last week.

SB 493: Why exempting fish farms from water and wetlands protections gives industry a free pass

A legislative proposal that would reduce the aquaculture industry's accountability for laws that protect our water is coming to the Wisconsin Capitol.

First, there is a big difference between the natural fisheries that have been a part of Wisconsin's water-based economy for years and farmed fish that come from the aquaculture industry. Natural fisheries use stocked fish ponds or fish in the wild – our rivers and lakes that aren't owned by any individual or industry. Aquaculture depends on industrialized fish farms with tens of thousands of fish and aquatic life raised in captivity in ponds, pens or nets.

Senate Bill 493 would exempt fish farms from basic accountability for laws on reducing agricultural pollution and would impact us all. Worse, the public was given just 24-hours' notice of a hearing on the bill earlier this month. That may have been enough time for representatives of the aquaculture industry to show up in support of the bill, but the public certainly needs more notice to digest these changes and give their input.

Fortunately the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources had time to provide important comments on how these changes would affect our resources and change current state law. [This week, we provided some of the DNR's comments on our blog along with our main concerns about](#)



the legislative proposal in an action alert. For more,
visit our website.



Events

Tonight!

January 15 - Madison

Midwest Environmental Advocates' Executive Director, Kimberlee Wright, will be the guest speaker at Madison's Congregation Shaarei Shamayim's Erev Shabbat Vegetarian Potluck. The Shabbat service begins at 6:15 p.m., dinner at 6:45 p.m. and MEA will give an update on our work.

For location please call (608) 257-2944 or email office@shamayim.org.

Midwest Environmental Advocates deeply thanks the Congregation Shaarei Shamayim for selecting MEA as one of the groups to receive a portion of their tzedakah gift in 2015. We appreciate the congregation's vote of confidence in our work for environmental justice!

February 26 - Madison

The Wisconsin Environmental Health Network presents, Environmental Health Through the Lifespan - Making the Connection 2016

Health Sciences Learning Center, room 1345, UW-Madison campus, noon – 6:00 p.m.

For more on environmental health and justice topics and registration information: WEHNonline.org/mtc-2016

Jointly sponsored by:

Wisconsin Environmental Health Network, Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Medicine and Pediatrics Departments of Family, St. Mary's Hospital Department of Continuing Professional Development

Midwest Environmental Advocates is a proud supportive sponsor of this event.

March 8 – Milwaukee

As a part of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee's luncheon and lecture series called "Wisconsin: What Happened to the Common Good?" Midwest Environmental Advocates Executive Director Kimberlee Wright will give a talk on why "Our Water is at Risk When Politics Overrides Science."

The luncheon and talk will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St. The cost of the luncheon series is \$60.00 for a series of five events and \$15.00 for individual sessions. Events include a simple vegetarian meal.

For more on the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, visit the UU congregation's website. For more on the work of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, visit the coalition's website.

Just announced!

March 9 – Middleton

CHIP Chat, Willy St Co-op West Community Room, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., free

Sustainable food starts with clean water

Learn what you can do to help citizens fight back against factory farm pollution in Wisconsin. Join Midwest Environmental Advocates and board member Jim Goodman of Northwood Farm and Family Farm Defenders

Willy West is located at 6825 University Ave. in Middleton, just off the Parmenter St exit of the 12/14 beltline. Parking on the east side of the building is encouraged.

CHIP Chat is a series of talks by member organizations of Community Shares of Wisconsin that benefit from the Community CHIP program. Each microdonation made by Willy St. Co-op

shoppers add up to make big change. [Learn more about the difference you make by saying Yes to CHIP.](#)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google +](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2016 Midwest Environmental Advocates, All rights reserved.

Thank you for subscribing to the Midwest Environmental Advocates e-newsletter. You can unsubscribe or update your subscription preferences at any time.

Our mailing address is:

Midwest Environmental Advocates
612 W. Main St.
Suite 302
Madison, WI 53703

[Add us to your address book](#)

[Unsubscribe from this list](#) | [Update subscription preferences](#)